Press release

Signature of the grant agreement (€307m) signed with the European Commission for the Tunisia-Italy electric interconnection (ELMED Project)

A further step towards the creation of a real "energy bridge" between Tunisia and Italy, linking two major electricity systems: those of Europe and North Africa

For the first time, Connecting Europe Facility funds are being allocated to an infrastructure project developed by a European Union Member State and a third country

Tunis, 8 August 2023 – **Steg**, the Tunisian electricity and gas operator, and **Terna**, the italian electricity grid operator, have signed a grant agreement with the European Commission worth 307 million euros to help finance the Tunisia-Italy electrical interconnection, known as the ELMED project, which will form the energy bridge between Europe and North Africa.

An investment of around 850 million euros is planned for the ELMED project: 307 million euros have been allocated by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), a European programme dedicated to supporting projects aimed at developing the energy infrastructure within the European Union. This is the first time that CEF funds have been allocated to an infrastructure project involving an EU Member State and a third country. As further proof of its strategic importance, the European Commission has allocated over half of the available budget to this project under the 2022 call for proposals. For its part, the World Bank has approved financing of 268.4 million dollars for Tunisia for the ELMED project. This is partly aimed at building the converter substation on the Tunisian side (included within the project financed by the CEF) and for Tunisian internal grid reinforcements necessary to operate the interconnection. In addition to the funds from the CEF and the World Bank, financing from the EIB, KfW and the EBRD is planned.

With a capacity of 600 MW, the high-voltage power cable link will connect the future power station at Mlaâbi (Menzel Témime delegation, Governorate of Nabeul) on the Tunisian side, to the Partanna power station, in Sicily, crossing a marine route approximately 200 km long at a maximum depth of 800 metres.

For more information on the ELMED Project, visit the website: https://elmedproject.com/